

REMARKS

Firstly, Applicant would like to take note of the fact that this is a first action final rejection. When Applicant filed the RCE, Applicant made substantial amendments to claims 1 and 3 to clarify the language therein and distinguish them from the prior art. Applicant still believes and is of the opinion that Applicant's claims as currently amended are patentably distinct from the art relied upon by the Examiner in the art of record in the last Office Action for the reasons set forth hereinbelow.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 3-6 under 35 USC 103 as being obvious over JP 10-278124 in view of Williams et al., stating that JP '124 discloses in Figs. 1a and 1b, a plastic gear having teeth 3 on an annular portion thereof, a shaft supporting member 2, a first annular rib 5 located outside of an intermediate point located between a rotational center of said gear and an outermost circumference of said gear, a plurality of radially extending diametrical ribs 7 extending from an innermost side of said first annular rib toward said shaft supporting member and a first web portion 4 located between said first annular rib and said teeth, but does not disclose said web portion being corrugated; Williams et al. teaches in Figs. 1 and 3 and in lines 23-25 of col. 2, a plastic gear having a corrugated web portion; and it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the apparatus of JP '124 in view of Williams et al. to form the first web portion with corrugations to increase the axial strength of the gear without significantly increasing the required material of construction.

Applicant has carefully reviewed JP '124 and particularly Figs. 1a and 1b and respectfully submits that shown therein is a construction comprising a shaft supporting member 2, first annular rib 6, second annular rib 5 and teeth 3 on an annular portion 3a thereof, all of these going from the center of the gear toward the radial edge. In addition, the gear includes first, second and third webs 4 provided each respectively between the supporting member 2 and the first rib 6, the first rib 6 and the second rib 5 and the second rib 5 and the annular portion 3a. In this construction, the thickness of the web 4 is varied, as can be seen in Figs. 1b and that portion of the web which is between the second rib 5 and the portion 3a of the teeth 3 is the thinnest and therefore the weakest. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that there is no teaching that one would replace this particular rib with the corrugated rib to make it stronger. There is no teaching or suggestion in JP '124 which of the three webs 4 would be reinforced or changed to include a corrugation to make it stronger. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully

that claim 2 is not obvious over JP `124 in view of Williams et al. and further in view of Mlenjnek et al.

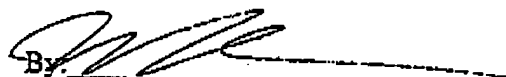
Applicant further respectfully and retroactively requests a one-month extension of time so as to respond to the Office Action. Please charge Deposit Account No. 11-1445 in the sum of \$110.00 as the fee.

In view of the above, therefore, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered, favorably considered and the case passed to issue.

Please charge any additional costs incurred by or in order to implement this Amendment or required by any requests for extensions of time to KODA & ANDROLIA DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 11-1445.

Respectfully submitted,

KODA & ANDROLIA

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office Fax No. (703) 872-9306 on October 22, 2004.

William L. Androlia

Name

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Signature

Date